

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 5-22 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10, 16-20. Independent claims 1, 10 and 16-19 have been amended to further clarify the features of the present invention. Claim 20 has been amended to correct an unintended typographical/clerical error. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 10 and 16-19 may be found at least in the drawings FIGS. 4-5 with corresponding description in page 10, lines 9-15 and page 11, lines 1-7, respectively, as well as, in FIG. 7 and description thereof (pages 13-16) in the specification of the instant application as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 due to stated informalities. In particular, claim 20 has been deemed indefinite because the phrase “said transmission” allegedly lacks antecedent basis.

In response, Applicants have amended the language of claim 1 accordingly herein. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-2, 7-8, 10, 13 and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No.: 6,157,706 to Tevya A. Rachelson (hereafter “Rachelson”) in view of US 2002/0075524 to Blair *et al.* (hereafter “Blair”).

Claims 5, 12 and 14-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rachelson as modified by Blair and further in view of U.S. Pat. No.: 6,658,456 to Shimoosawa (hereafter “Shimoosawa”).

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rachelson as modified by Blair and further in view of U.S. Pat. No.: 6,721,783 to Blossman *et al.* (hereafter “Blossman”).

Claims 9 and 11 have been under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejected as being unpatentable over Rachelson as modified by Blair and further in view of U.S. Pat. No.: 6,883,016 to Fujii *et al.* (hereafter “Fujii”).

Claims 20-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rachelson as modified by Blair and further in view of U.S. Pat. 6,356,356 to Miller *et al.* (hereafter “Miller”).

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite:

A communication apparatus comprising:

registration means for registering an electronic mail account of a client via a first network upon receiving a request from the client, wherein the request includes a customized format of an image to be received;

reception means for receiving facsimile data, which includes color image information and/or monochrome image information, from a second network that uses a different communication protocol from the first network;

confirming means for confirming whether the client maintains a valid account;

generating means for generating an electronic mail directed to the client’s account where the electronic mail has an attachment generated based on the received facsimile data having the color image information and/or monochrome image information received by said reception means, and also based on the customized format of an image for the client received by said registration means; and

transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail generated by said generating means to the client’s electronic mail account,

wherein the customized format includes information regarding whether to divide the image into several pages to create one file from each page or to group all pages of the image into a single file, for attaching to the electronic mail.

In an exemplary embodiment, a communication apparatus, based on a customized format received from a client, may determine whether an image to be transmitted by electronic mail as an attachment file should be divided into several pages or sent as a single document that is not divided. In the case where it is determined that the image should be divided, each page is advantageously converted into one attachment file. As a result, it is possible to transmit a file in

the format and size that meets the user's needs, while improving operability and reducing processing time.

The Rachelson reference is drawn to a method and apparatus that allow users having access to a facsimile (fax) machine to send, receive, and manage e-mail (Abstract). To send e-mail, the user establishes an "address book" of e-mail addresses of potential e-mail recipients or sets of recipients (such as a mailing list). Each e-mail address in the address book is associated with a fax number (also termed an "internet fax number"). Entries (e.g. an e-mail address associated with a fax number) in the address book are made when a user receives e-mail from someone for the first time. Alternatively, the user can also make entries in his address book by calling a predetermined telephone number to manually enter a new e-mail address in the address book. In a preferred embodiment, e-mail faxed by a user is sent to the recipient in a graphical format such as GIF, TIF, or PostScript (C2, L11-59).

The Blair reference is drawn to methods for automatic, computer-based, image management. More particularly, Blair discloses image input devices such as digital scanners, digital media readers or a combination of the two, and software that makes possible the processing (e.g. reading, transfer, storage, copying, editing, and archiving) of digital images. In the Office Action Blair is cited as merely disclosing "receiving color image information." (See Office Action, page 5).

Shimoosawa is cited as disclosing a communication apparatus wherein the customized format of an image includes information on whether or not to attach the image to the electronic mail. (See Office Action, page 8). Blossman is cited as disclosing method of sending bank customers images of bank related documents through email. (Office Action, page 10). Fujii is cited as disclosing procedure based on the ITU-T T. 37.

Applicants respectfully assert that none of the above cited references (i.e. Rachelson, Blair, Shimoosawa, Blossman, Fujii and Miller) teach or suggest at least that "the customized format includes information regarding whether to divide the image into several pages to create one file from each page or to group all pages of the image into a single file, for attaching to the electronic mail," as recited in amended claim 1. Claims 10 and 16-19 recite at least similar features as those found in claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1, 10, 16-

19 and claims dependent thereof are patentably distinguished over the cited references, either taken alone or in combination.

* * *

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, reconsideration of the claims, and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-4792. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-4792. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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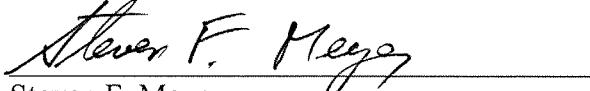
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